

USD 303 Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services for the 2023-2024 School Year

PART I.

Describe how the district will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff and the extent to which it has adopted policies, and a description of any such policies, on each of the following safety recommendations established by the CDC:

(A) Universal and correct wearing of masks.

The Board of Education of USD 303 recognizes each individual's rights, personal preference, and ability to wear or not wear a mask for personal protection. No action will be taken to discriminate, pressure, or force individuals to wear or not wear a mask.

(B) Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding).

USD 303 will do everything possible to meet the physical space requirements for individuals based on the current configuration of our facilities.

(C) Handwashing and respiratory etiquette.

Signage encouraging and demonstrating proper handwashing is posted in every District restroom. Students in the elementary are taught proper handwashing, and are expected to wash their hands at scheduled bathroom breaks.

(D) Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation.

USD 303 custodial staff works to ensure facilities are properly cleaned and disinfected on a daily basis. The USD 303 BOE has worked to improve air quality in all buildings with updates to HVAC systems and improved air filters.

(E) Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments.

USD 303 will follow State and Local guidelines for isolation and quarantine.

(F) Diagnostic and screening testing.

USD 303 has testing materials available for those that wish to utilize them.

(G) Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities.

USD 303 will work with local health officials to provide information about vaccinations and ways for members of every family to get vaccinated if they so choose.

- (H) Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies.**

USD 303 will utilize all IDEA laws and statutes to ensure that all students are able to participate in their least restrictive environment.

- (I) Coordination with State and local health officials.**

USD 303 will work with all health entities to ensure that all learning environments are safe for students and staff.

Part II.

Describe how the district will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to:

- (A) services to address students' academic needs**

USD 303 will create the best possible learning environment for all students based on the available facilities and personnel. Staff continually receives training to work with all students to help meet their individual academic needs.

- (B) students' and staff social, emotional, mental health**

USD 303 is providing training for staff and students that will help them overcome social, emotional, and mental health obstacles. Additionally, staff will receive training that helps them recognize social, emotional, and mental health concerns in students, so they can step in with support when needed. Additionally, USD 303 has invested in a full time Social Worker position and is participating in the MHIT program through the State. Furthermore, we have developed a strong working relationship with High Plains Mental Health to help better meet the needs of our students.

- (C) other needs, which may include student health and food services.**

None at this time.